

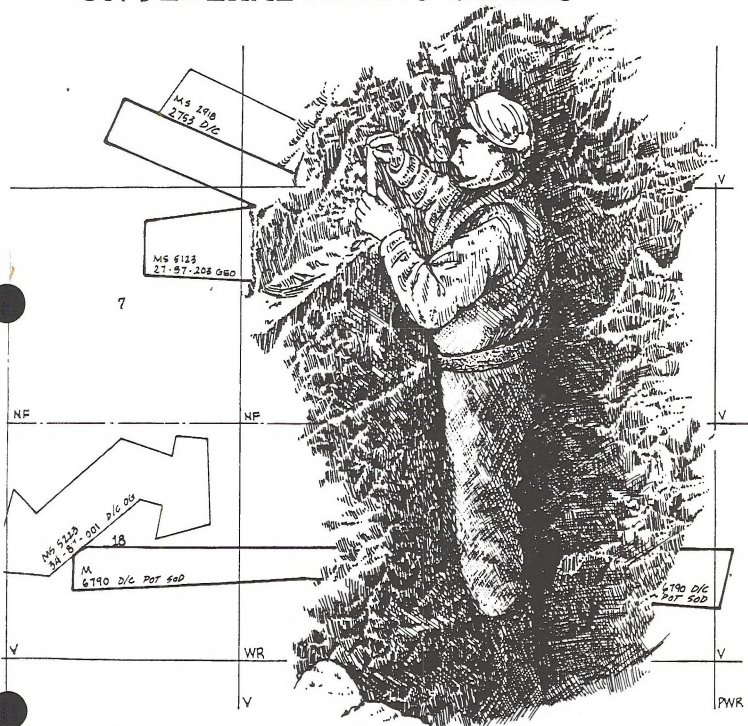


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LAND STATUS DETERMINATIONS ON FEDERAL MINING CLAIMS



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
TASK GROUP REPORT
APRIL 1987

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TASK GROUP ON LAND STATUS
DETERMINATION PROCESS

APRIL 1987

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Group extensively analyzed the current methods and processes of doing land status determinations on Federal mining claims. It is apparent that no standardized method or process is being used, leading to wide variances in efficiencies and costs. Numerous alternatives were discussed and analyzed.

We find that:

A. Certain enhancements can be made to the existing ADP system to increase productivity until ALMRS becomes functional in 1991-1992. See IV-B below.

B. The current position of mining claim recordation adjudication staff in the State Office is the most efficient location. See IV-A below.

C. The Bureau has three alternatives available to it for land status determinations. The group proposes a multi-stage screening process. It is proposed to do land status on those mining claims that really need it and leaves the remaining mining claims until there is a specific need for a land status determination. See III - F3 below and the table below on page I-2.

D. A model functional system for maximum effective adjudication and paper flow is proposed and is outlined in III D below.

E. Other surface management agencies, particularly the U.S. Forest Service, have done land status determinations of existing mining claims as part of their land use planning process. This information is currently not available to the BLM. Entry of this data into our ADP system will reduce the existing "backlog" of mining claims without land status determinations dramatically. It will also stop our current duplication of effort. See IV-E below.

F. Adjudication staff exists in other program areas in the State offices that can be utilized for land status determinations of mining claims. See IV-F below.

LAND STATUS DETERMINATION ALTERNATIVES

Select Adjudication of All
New Mining Claims on
BLM Administered Land
(III F.1.)

Full Adjudication of All New Claims
on BLM Administered Land
(III F.2.)

Full Adjudication
(Current Policy)
(III F.3.)

- All new claims "screened" into two categories:

1. Non-BLM Administered Lands
+ MTP placed in Case File
and dockets/

+ Land status only done upon
formal request.

2. BLM Administered Lands

+ Two level "screen" applied
and the claims sorted into
two groups.

+ Group #1 - Claims on land
open to mineral entry.
Claims processed to be
sent to dockets.

+ Group #2 - Claims on land
not open to mineral entry
are further divided into
two actions.

- 1) Those claims falling
within areas of manage-
ment (SD) concern.
Adjudicate to adminis-
trative finality.
- 2) Those claims not in
areas of management (SD)
concern. Tagged and
send to dockets to await
further action.

- Land status of Pre-February
1986 claims be deferred until
specific need arises to
adjudicate.
- All claims affected by NWP
Litigation require adjudi-
cation.

- All new claims "screened" into two categories:

1. Non-BLM Administered Lands
+ MTP placed in Case File and
in dockets.

+ Land status only done upon
formal request.

2. BLM Administered Lands

+ All claims fully adjudicated to
administrative finality (per
current policy for land status
determination.

(NOTE: This includes All BLM
lands-open or not for
mineral entry.)

- Land Status of Pre-February 1986
claims to be deferred until specific
need arises to adjudicate.
- All claims affected by NWP Litigation
require adjudication.

- All new mining claims recorded
will be fully adjudicated to
administrative finality at time
of recordation.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Background.

A land status task group was created by the Director to review the process and procedures in use today for performing land status determinations on unpatented mining claims. The group is to recommend to the Director the most efficient and effective methods of achieving this goal.

This effort is driven by 3 factors: the report of the General Accounting Office (GAO) entitled Public Lands - Interior Should Ensure Against Abuses From Hardrock Mining, GAO/RCED - 86-48, March 27, 1986; a resolution of the Public Lands Advisory Committee (PLAC) of August 23, 1986; and the February 14, 1986 order of Judge John Pratt in NWF v. Hodel, District Court of the District of Columbia.

The GAO report alleged that BLM is accepting for recording under Section 314 of FLPMA, mining claims and sites in areas not open to mineral entry. The PLAC urges the Secretary not to expend time and effort in this endeavor as very few mining claims fall into this category and the fact that recording in itself does not grant any possessory rights to owners of non-valid claims (43 U.S.C. 1744 (d)). Judge Pratt issued a preliminary injunction against the Department, reinstating all previously revoked classifications and withdrawals that were in existence as of January 1, 1981. Judge Pratt also specifically prohibited the Department from recording new mining claims or sites on lands contained within the scope of his preliminary injunction.

Instruction Memorandum 87-84 was issued, on October 30, 1986, which outlined the charter of this task group. The group further defined and refined the task at hand in Denver on November 13, 1986, and in Phoenix on December 16 and 17, 1986. This report is the outcome of this sequence of events. See Appendix I for the background materials pertaining to this effort.

B. Legislative History

The intent of Congress with respect to mining claim recordation is found in the legislative history of Section 314 of FLPMA, which is summarized below.

The legislative history of FLPMA for Mining Claim Recordation (MCR) starts with the recommendations of the Public Land Law Review Commission (PLLRC), established in 1964, by an Act of Congress (see 78 STAT. 982, PL 88-606). The commission's report was issued on June 20, 1970, (see One Third of The Nation's Land, GPO, 1970, 342 pp). The Commission's recommendation number 48 (p. 130), stated among other things, that there was a need for a centralized record keeping system for Federal mining claims. The proposed system would serve two purposes:

1. To remove "stale" (abandoned) mining claims from the public land.
2. It would assist the Federal land manager by removing the "cloud" from the Federal title caused by the location of mining claims.

The legislative debates on the recordation issue in the Senate in 1975 and 1976 focused on the need to:

1. Remove "stale" and abandoned mining claims from the public land.
2. Establish a central mining claim recordation system.
3. The record keeping system was to serve the Federal land manager in the orderly administration of the public land, in concert with the other public land records of the Bureau (see comments of Senators McClure and Haskell in the Congressional Record of February 23, 1976, pp S-2147, 2154, 2155).

The House created a version of the recordation requirements in Section 207 of HR 13777 of May 13, 1976 (Report number 94-1163). This language was carried over into the present Section 314 of FLPMA in Conference Committee and placed in S-507, which became FLPMA on October 21, 1976. A full, annotated, and itemized legislative and Bureau history of section 314 of FLPMA is contained in Information Bulletin 87-73, dated December 17, 1986.

C. Task Group and Steering Committee Members

The task group assigned to review and recommend modifications to the present process of performing land status determination consists of Bureau personnel with considerable knowledge and experience in mining law and recordation law and related procedures. They are:

Roger Haskins, WO-680, Program Leader for Mining Claim Recordation, Task Group Leader

Rose Fairbanks, CA-943, Section Chief for Mining Law Adjudication

Tom Golden, NM-943, Unit Chief for Solid Minerals Adjudication

Joanne Nilsen, OR-943, Supervisory Conveyance Examiner, Mining Law and Recordation Unit

Tom Woodward, ID-010, District Geologist, Boise District

Cindy McCauley, D-553B, Systems Analyst for MCR System

The efforts of the land status task force were accomplished under the direction and guidance of a State Director's Steering Committee. This Steering Committee consisted of the following members:

Edward Spang, Nevada State Director, Chairman
Roland Robison, Utah State Director
Neil Morck, Colorado State Director
Michael Penfold, Alaska State Director
Bob Lawton, Assistant Director, Energy and Minerals, ex officio member
Dan Sokoloski, Deputy Assistant Director, Energy and Minerals, ex officio member

D. Scoping

The task group first met in Denver to lay out the scope of the analysis and the methods to be used to perform the analysis. The items to be analyzed and the data needed for the analysis are given below:

1. Alternative Model Adjudication System(s) for Land Status Determinations.
 - a. Full adjudication (current practice).
 - b. District level land status determination on receipt of a 3802/3809 action with State Office adjudication of case files.
 - c. Land status only at time of mineral patent application or special agency request.
 - d. Determine land status on cases already in the docket system (the backlog).
2. Data required:
 - a. Best "paper path" using timed casework processing data from the 1986 ATPR of Mining Claim Recordation.
 - b. Proper personnel skill mixes and grades for model, taken from existing processing data.
 - c. Depth of adjudication required for land status determination.
3. Proper location of staff for land status determination effort.
 - a. State Office (current situation).
 - b. District Office land status completed when 3802/3809 action received.
 - c. When should land status be accomplished? (at time of initial recording, at time of 3802/3809 action, at time of mineral patent application, etc.)
4. Document methods now available for determining land status.
 - a. Manual methods.
 - b. ADP methods.
 - c. Use of public assistance.
5. Methods that can be made available in 1-2 years.
 - a. Manual methods.
 - b. ADP methods.
 - c. Public assistance.
6. Product output, storage, and retrieval
 - a. Available today.
 - b. Needed for the next 1-2 years.
7. Cost of the above

Source data for this analysis was taken from the results of the Administrative and Technical Procedures Review (ATPR) of the Mining Claim Recordation program (done in FY 1986); the personal experience of the task group, and by direct questioning of the various State Office.

This data was then analyzed by the task group in December. The results of the analysis were presented and discussed with representatives of the Steering Committee. On the basis of these discussions, the task group presents the following findings and recommendations.

III. FINDINGS

A. Current Procedures/Number of Actions Processed

Currently, there is considerable variation between State Offices processing mining claim recordation (MCR) files, including land status determination. State Office intensity of adjudication varies in land status determination procedures.

In Fiscal Year 1986, the Bureau's MCR program processed the following number of actions: 112,858 new mining claims; 724,907 annual filings; 165,597 decisions (120,635 abandoned and void; 1,063 null and void in part or in total, and 43,899 for other reasons); 185 PL-359 cases; 4,074 amended locations; 88,507 land status determinations; 90,642 changes of address or changes of ownership; 19,290 claims relinquished voluntarily; and 229 petitions for deferments of assessment work. In summary the MCR program processed a total of 1,206,289 individual actions in 1986. Of interest to this analysis is the fact that since February 14, 1986, the Bureau received 78,612 new claims and performed 85,507 land status determinations (the difference is status done to claims filed prior to February 14, 1986).

B. Current Automated Methods

The current MCR computer system in Denver has available two programs that can assist the State Offices in doing land status determinations. One is the 990 CRUN, by which an office can enter the legal description of an area of interest and obtain a printout of the mining claims present. The output has four options, each yielding various data elements to the report. The 990 CRUN lists by selected townships and ranges. The second program is the action code report, which can list actions by serial number. By using both together in a cross matching manual process, those claims listed on the action code report as having land status done can be manually eliminated from the 990 CRUN list. The remainder on the 990 CRUN list will be the claims requiring a land status determination.

There is currently no method available that can directly link up a mining claim location legal description with a designated area of concern in the Geo-reference Tables or the new LLD master status system being developed for ALMRS. All matching of mining claim locations with land status data, either with an Master Title Plat (MTP) or the Geo-reference Tables must be done manually.

C. Possible Enhancements

The Denver Service Center (DSC) was asked to provide an analysis of automated enhancements to the current computer system for MCR that would assist the State Offices in land status determination efforts. The offices involved were D-150 (ALMRS), D-553 (Branch of Records and Library), and D-224 (Land Records Systems). The result of the analysis is given in Appendix III. They fall into two categories, one for short term enhancements taking 6-8 months to implement, the other is for a longer term effort, taking one to two years to implement.

1. Short Term

These were developed in response to a request from the DSD-Operations in Arizona, prior to the formation of the task force. However, since they directly relate to the current problem, we included them as part of this study. With the exception of going into a "real time" mode, most of these options can be programmed into the MCR system. The enhancements are modifications to the "search" parameters to the data base so that a State Office adjudicator can search by individual, by Resource Area, or by status (active or closed, case type, time periods, etc.).

2. Long Term

There are two long term options available that are considered to be "band aids" that can carry the BLM over to 1991 or 1992 when the ALMRS LLD/STATUS base is fully operational. These offer rapid automated "screening" of mining claims in regards to land status determinations.

a. The first option is to complete the ALMRS system LLD/STATUS base. Then the MCR data base could be changed to read from it instead of from the current Geo-reference area of the data base.

b. The second option is to use the existing Geo-reference data base. The eight character field reserved for "Surface Jurisdiction" is not used at present and could be used to store land status codes, accurate to the section level record. Subdivisions of a section cannot be used in this format.

The use of (a) would require a complete redesign of the current MCR system, entry by each State Office of its land status records into LLD/STATUS, and one week of unload-reload time of the DSC computer. The use of (b) would require the entry of coded land status data into Geo-reference base by all State Offices by MTR and section. It can only show one withdrawal per section, and no Historical Index (HI) data.

The implementation of (a) or (b) would result in a warning symbol appearing on the terminal screen if the mining claim location conflicted with a withdrawal or classification as noted in the automated system. It would be retroactive as well, affecting past mining claims of record as well as new recordings, alleviating the need for a manual search for initial status problem with both new filings and previously recorded mining claims.

D. Proposed Model Adjudication System.

In 1986, an Administrative and Technical Procedures Review of all BLM State Offices for MCR showed that there are a variety of different methods of "paper flow" and adjudication, each with its own relative level of efficiency. (See Appendix II.)

On the basis of the task group's analysis, a model adjudication system is proposed for the most efficient processing of MCR recordings. This is shown below.

Proposed Paper Path for Mining Claim Recordation in the State Offices. 1/

ACCOUNTS - Receipt filing fee, serialize mining claim.

MINING CLAIM RECORDATION ACTION - Set up case file, check 3833 filing requirements, data entry into computer.

MINING CLAIM ADJUDICATION 3/ - Land status, 2/ ADP entry, decision issuance.

DOCKETS - Case file storage or microfilm.

The above outline shows the functions recommended for each office area. It does not attempt to explain the detailed processing of each item by the personnel in each functional unit.

The advantage of this proposed functional system is that the files are only handled once, paper path travel time is minimized, and the action steps are done in the unit best equipped to perform the assigned task.

Other scenarios (stated in II-D above) were also examined by the group and evaluated. These were not adopted by the group as viable alternatives as they either increased the existing workload on the field organization (such as doing land status at the District Office level) or failed to complete an adjudicative action to administrative finality. It is felt by the group that the model proposed in above is operationally the best that can be designed in the current BLM organization.

The group also observed that there is available in the State Offices other adjudicative talent in the lands and minerals programs that can be utilized in the land status determination effort.

- 1/ This process assumes that all sections (accounts, recordation, adjudication, and dockets) are contained within the same administrative organization (ie: Operations or Minerals), that Divisional lines are not crossed in the paper path process, and that the staff, the MCR files, and ADP terminals are physically co-located for maximum time efficiency. The more time spent chasing files, MTP's, ADP records, etc., the higher the unit costs.
- 2/ Land status processing is laid out below in III F.
- 3/ In some State organizational structures, the adjudication portion is integral with the recordation section. In some States, accounts and dockets are in a separate organizational unit from the recordation unit.

E. Mining Claim Attrition

The group notes that the number of existing mining claims that do not have a land status determination upon them is declining due to attrition. Each year, large numbers of mining claims expire for lack of an annual filing. The annual turnover rate for claims lost due to abandonment under the FLPMA is averaging 14 percent per year.

To illustrate this point, the following table shows the turnover rate per calendar year from 1982 to 1986 in mining claim recordation.

Calendar Year	Claims Active at end of Year	New Claims Filed	Annual Filings Received	Claims Dropped Each Year	Percent Dropped From Active	Percent of New Claims to Those Dropped
1982	941,450	150,046	868,104	73,346	7.79	204.57
1983	1,018,150	151,763	881,947	136,203	13.38	111.42
1984	1,033,710	128,450	832,155	201,555	19.50	63.73
1985	960,605	96,410	844,994	115,611	12.04	83.39
1986 *	941,404	114,622	771,427	169,977	18.06	67.43
5 year average	979,064	128,258	839,725	139,338	14.23	92.05

* Note: In 1985 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in United States v Locke, 471 U.S. 84, 129 (1985), that Section 314 of FLPMA was constitutional. A Nevada District Court ruled in 1983 that Section 314 was unconstitutional. The BLM stopped adjudication of mining claim annual filings in 1984 and part of 1985 pending the Supreme Court review of Locke. The 1986 figures show the results of the ELM clearing its backlog of files pending since 1984 and 1985 from the Locke case.

In the period 1982-1985 new mining claims recorded has been on a down-hill trend. This trend reversed in 1986. This is shown graphically in Illustration 1. If the number of new claims recorded continue to increase, the land status workload will correspondingly increase as well.

In some States, current MCR staff can only cover the land status determinations for new mining claims. In other States, this workload is exceeding the physical capacity of the MCR staff, and backlogs of new mining claims requiring land status determinations are increasing. Doing land status on mining claims located prior to February 1986 will require additional funding and FTE, which is currently not available and is not anticipated to be available in future years. Diversion of funds and FTE into this effort would require program priority shifts which would not meet the BLM's management needs.

F. Land Status Determination Alternatives

The current method of doing land status determinations is essentially a manual process. The legal description of a mining claim is matched to an MTP and the HI must be consulted. Public Land Orders (PLO's) must be read and interpreted. The use of automated procedures helps (990 CRUN etc.) but the final "match" is a manual one. Given this time consuming and manpower intensive situation, the group extensively discussed a number of alternatives and agreed upon the following three alternatives as being viable, given the current BLM funding projections in this program area.

1. Full Adjudication of All New (Post January 1986) Mining Claims

This is a continuation of the Bureau's current policy. All new mining claims recorded will be fully adjudicated to administrative finality at the time of recordation, as per Instruction Memoranda No. 86-447 and 85-469.

2. Full Adjudication of All New Mining Claims Located on Bureau-administered Lands.

This alternative will apply an initial "screening" process to all new recordings. The Bureau will separate mining claims located on non-Bureau administered lands from those located on Bureau-administered lands. Those on non-Bureau administered lands would have an MTP placed in the case file and would be placed in dockets. Land status would be done only upon receiving a formal request from the non-Bureau agency.

This alternative is based on the fact that the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service have been doing, at least on a Forest or Park level basis, land status determinations of mining claims on their lands. The mining claims having a land status problem are being transmitted to BLM for final adjudication. The Bureau, however, is not receiving a list of those mining claims from the U.S. Forest

Service upon which a land status determination has been made and the claim has no status problem. This is causing an artificial "backlog" to exist on BLM's records and is causing the Bureau to duplicate work already done.

Those mining claims on Bureau administered lands would be fully adjudicated to administrative finality, as in current procedures for land status determinations. These are lands not contained within the boundaries of another surface management agency, or for which the Bureau does have an agreement to manage the surface resources for that agency. This alternative would be viable for those states with an uncomplicated pattern of withdrawals and segregations. This assumes that all Bureau administered lands not open to mineral entry will be adjudicated.

3. Selective Adjudication of All New Mining Claims on Bureau Administered Land on a Priority Basis.

The non-Bureau administered lands are treated as in F2 above. The Bureau administered lands would be processed through a two level "screening" process as follows:

The two "level" screen consists of separation of the mining claims into those located on land not open to mineral entry and those that are open to mineral entry as in F2 above. Then a second level "screen" is applied consisting of the legal descriptions of specified withdrawals and segregations of concern to the Bureau and the State Director. Those claims falling on the list of concerned lands would be adjudicated to administrative finality. The remaining mining claims would be tagged as being in a withdrawal and sent to docket to await future actions.

G. Possible Staff Locations for Land Status Determinations

The group evaluated two scenarios for MCR staff locations. The first (option 1), split land status responsibilities between the State and District Offices. The second (option 2) left the land status responsibilities in the State Office. The two scenarios are given below.

Initially Proposed Selective Adjudication Model for MCR and Land Status Effort 4/

ACCOUNTS

MINING CLAIM RECORDATION

MINING CLAIM ADJUDICATION (initial land status filter applied)

DOCKETS

OPTION 1 - District Office
Land Status Effort

- a. 3802/3809 Plan/Notice received
- b. Geologist checks status (MTP/HI)
- c. If conflict, requests status records from the State Office.
- d. State Office copies records & sends to D.O. (3-5 working days)
- e. Geologist checks documents.
- f. If problem, notifies State Office.
 - i. Curable defect - State Office recheck of files, decision sent.
 - ii. Fatal defect-State Office recheck of files, decision sent.
- g. State Office recheck of land status prior to decision issuance.
- h. ADP entry updated

OPTION 2 - State Office Driven
Application or
Request Driven

- a. Request received for land status check.
 - i. From District Office
 - ii. From other agency
 - iii. Mineral patent application
- b. Adjudication - land status checked.
- c. ADP entry updated
- d. Decision issued if needed

Option 1: District Office Land Status Effort

Option 1 assumes that the land status screen is applied (from III F2 above) and, all other recordation actions happen in the State Office. Additional land status is done by the District at the time of a 3802/3809 action, with State Office adjudication of final results.

Option 1 requires the District Office to acquire new duties and responsibilities for which they are not currently staffed or financed. It also requires duplication of certain areas of State Office adjudication in the land status process. The group feels that this option is not viable and would only lead to an increased burden on the District Offices and a further slow down in the Surface Management program. The regulatory 15 day limit on 3809 notices can not be met by using this process.

- 4/ All functional assignments are assumed from III D above. The task group finds that of the two options presented here, option 2 is practical and reasonable. Option 1 would place additional duties and burdens on the Districts, for which they do not have the necessary source documents or trained staff to implement.

Option 2: State Office Action

Option 2 assumes the State Office will adjudicate a recordation with the land status screen (III F2 or F3 above). No further action with respect to land status would be done until a request was received from the field or another agency. All land status work would be done in the State Office.

Option 2 postpones the land status determination of certain mining claims to a time when an action requires a status check prior to the Bureau proceeding forward with the action (mineral patent application, 3802/3809 action, other agency request).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS.

The task group's recommendations to facilitate efficient and effective land status determinations in mining claim recordation are provided below. It must be kept firmly in mind that in all cases, the land status determination process required by NWP v. Hodel, is mandatory until the lawsuit is settled.

A. Land Status Adjudication Should Remain in the State Office

Adjudication should remain a State Office function and not be passed on to the Districts, who lack the resources to take on this function.

The task group recommends the proposed functional paper path process as given in III D for all State Offices. It should be entirely contained within one administrative unit and its functions should not cross Divisional lines. It should also be physically located as close as possible to its dockets and records area to avoid lost time in physical travel of personnel to the case files and ADP terminal areas. This recommendation is focused on "paper path" and processing patterns and is not recommending changes of Divisional duties in the State Offices.

B. Provide More Automated Assistance.

It is the task group's recommendation that the existing MCR data base be modified to provide the State Offices with as much automated assistance as possible. This is necessary to reduce manpower and other time related work month costs.

1. These short-term enhancements are feasible, and should be programmed into the MCR system as soon as possible (taken from Appendix III):

- a. List serial number by name and address
- b. Enhance the current four indices for Resource Area query, excluding closed claims and claims with existing land status codes.
- c. Enhance action code report listing for all claims.
- d. Enhance action code report by administrative State, District, or County.
- e. Enhance missing assessment report.
- f. Enhance township and range report.

2. For long-term assistance (1987-1991) it is not recommended that the existing Geo-reference data base be modified to provide an automatic "screen" for all mining claims, past and future. This will involve time, money, and manpower from each State Office land and mineral staffs to research out the areas of concern for each State Director and enter the data into the Geo-reference portion of the MCR system. It will also be a temporary measure, pending ALMRS completion of the LLD/STATUS data base. The group feels the investment will not be beneficial over the four-year period of its existence, when the current time investment for doing land status is considered and it would be a duplication of the ongoing LLD/STATUS effort in the States.

The group also wishes to point out the fact that when ALMRS becomes operational in 1991-1992, its LLD/STATUS program will allow the State Offices to retroactively perform land status determination on mining claims previously located based upon the year the land status data was entered. Mining claims located before the date the land status data was entered would still have to be manually processed. Land status determinations of mining claims located after the date of status entry would be fully automated and would obviate the need for additional staff devoted to land status determination.

C. Each State Office Should Decide which Land Status Determination Alternative is Best for their Situation.

The group recommends two alternatives to the present Bureau land status determination policy. These alternatives allow the States to selectively adjudicate filings based on their respective workload, budget, and staffing levels. In either alternative, adjudication of sensitive cases would occur. The process given above in III F3 is recommended as the most optimum for the Bureau in its land status determinations. However, if the State Director desires, the alternatives given in III F1 or F2 can be utilized.

The process given in III F3 will result in:

1. Initial screening of all new mining claims.
2. Land status adjudication of mining claims only in areas of Bureau concern.
3. Maximum flexibility to State Directors in allocating resources to land status work, as each State Director will be able to set their own priorities for areas of special concern.
4. Allocation of MCR resources and funds to those areas "where the action is."
5. Maximum efficient paper flow.

D. Defer Land Status Determination on Pre-February 1986 Mining Claims Until a Need Arises.

The group recommends that land status of pre-February, 1986 claims be deferred until either a specific need arises to adjudicate a specific claim or the State Office MCR staff has the time, with current staff levels, to process these mining claims. All pre-February, 1986 claims should be processed for land status by the same alternative chosen for new claims, so that the process is consistent within the State, and complies with the consistency requirement of the Administrative Procedures Act.

E. Obtain Land Status Information from the U.S. Forest Service

The addition to the Bureau data base of those mining claims on other agency administered lands, particularly the U.S. Forest Service, that have completed land status checks will greatly reduce the apparent "backlog" of old cases needing land status determination by the Bureau. On a State basis, the addition of this data to our records will reduce the apparent "backlog" by 20% to 60%, depending on the amount of U.S. Forest Service land within that particular State. It will also prevent duplication of effort by the Bureau staff and be a major time savings in that respect.

The group recommends that the land status determination data be requested from the U.S. Forest Service so that the Bureau's records are up-to-date and complete. This will prevent duplication of work and permit a true picture of the number of mining claims remaining that need a land status determination.

F. Increase Usage of Existing Adjudication skills.

The task group observes that in some State Offices, there is an excess of adjudication skills in the non-mining law area that can be shifted, with minimum cross-training, to land status work. This should be explored by the State Directors as an interim measure.

V. SUMMARY

The 1986 ATRP for the Mining Claim Recordation Program showed that each State Office was "on its own" as far as organizing a methodology for doing land status determinations. Outside pressure upon the BLM (the GAO report, Judge Pratt's Preliminary Injunction, and the PLAC resolution) has focussed on the need for the BLM to have a consistent land status determination policy and process for mining claims recorded under Section 314 of FLPMA.

The task group feels that by implementing the methods and process stated above in III D and III F3, that the BLM can provide land status determinations on mining claims in a manner that is consistent, responsive, and meets both the necessary legal standards in the program area as they exist today and meet the BLM's managerial requirements for properly managing the public lands under FLPMA.

On the basis of the data collected from the 1986 ATRP and supplemented by data received from the States, the task group discussed and analyzed a wide variety of alternatives for the BLM in this area. The findings of this group effort are enumerated in Chapter III of this report. The group's recommendations to provide a consistent yet flexible process for doing land status determinations on mining claims is stated in Chapter IV of this report. By implementing the task group's recommendations, the MCR functional and adjudicative process would be as follows:

Recommended Functional Paper Path and Adjudication Process for Land Status Determination

ACCOUNTS - Receipt filing fees, serialize case file.

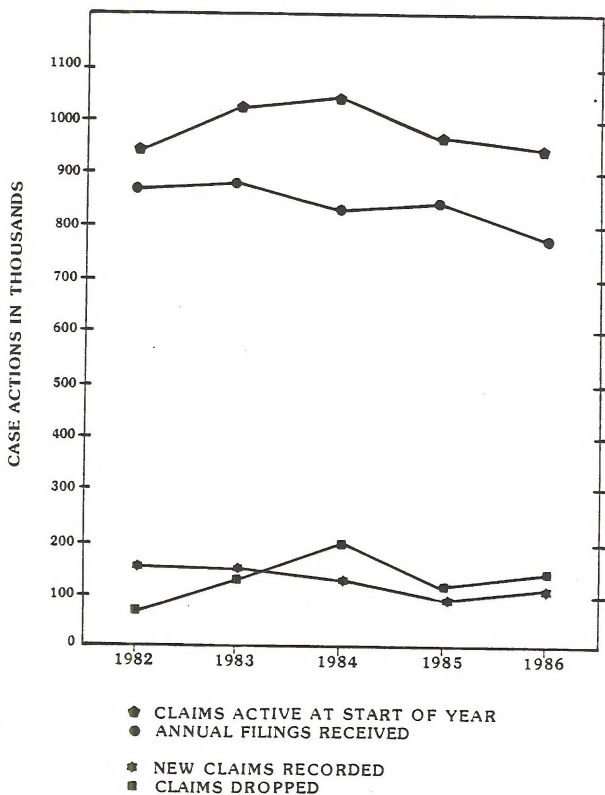
MINING CLAIM RECORDATION - Set up case file, adjudicate FLPMA and Mining Law compliance, data entry into computer.

MINING CLAIM ADJUDICATION - Apply chosen alternative to mining claim filing (III F1, III F2, or III F3). Adjudicate identified conflict to administrative finality using process chosen. ADP entry and decision issuance of claims caught in screen.

DOCKETS - File and store remaining claims until future action requires case processing. Microfilm files if needed.

Illustration 1

MINING CLAIM RECORDATION HISTORY
BY CALENDAR YEAR - CASE ACTIONS



GLOSSARY

ADJUDICATION - The processing of a case record by a BLM Land Law or Conveyance Examiner to ensure its compliance with Departmental regulations and case law.

ALMRS - An acronym for Automated Land and Minerals Record System. This multiyear project will finish in 1992 and will be a complete three dimensional computer system containing all of the BLM's records and land data.

FLPMA - An acronym for the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

FTE - An acronym for Full-Time Equivalent. This is one man-year, equal to 10 work months in the BLM accounting system.

GAO - An acronym for the General Accounting Office.

Geo-reference Tables - An automated subprogram of the Mining Claim Recordation system containing the legal descriptions and boundaries of the BLM's field administrative units. It forms the basis for matching mining claims with administrative areas of jurisdiction.

HI - An acronym for Historical Index. An HI is attached to each Master Title Plat, listing by section, all Departmental actions (Public Land Orders, Executive Orders, contests, classifications, etc) that have occurred in that Township.

LLD/STATUS - An acronym for Legal Land Description/Status. This will be the automated subsystem of ALMRS which will contain all land status information for each township, range, and section in the BLM records. It will overlay and interact with the other record subsystems for BLM record management.

MTP - An acronym for Master Title Plat. There is an MTP for each Township and Range in the BLM record system. It contains a cartographic display of the land status of each section, or portion of each section, in the township.

MTR - An acronym for Meridian, Township, and Range, which is the public land grid of the United States.

PLO - An acronym for Public Land Order. PLO's are issued by the Secretary of the Interior under his statutory authority to open or close the public lands to the various land and mineral laws.

990 CRUN - A program subsystem of the current Mining Claim Recordation system that searches by MTR for mining claims with specified search parameters (date of location, type of claim, etc).

Appendix I

Documents Relating to the Creation and Direction of the Land Status Task Group

1. IM 86-447 of May 12, 1986: "Determination of Land Status of Mining Claims and Sites Recorded Under Section 314 of FLPMA."
2. IM 87-84 of October 30, 1986: "Land Status Determination and Bonding Task Force Support."
3. Resolution of the Public Lands Advisory Committee of August 23, 1986.



United States Department of the Interior

3833 (680)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

May 12, 1986

Instruction Memorandum No. 86-447
Expires 9/30/87To: All State Directors, Service Center Director
From: DirectorSubject: Determination of Land Status of Mining Claims and Sites Recorded
Under Section 314 of FLPMA

On February 15, 1986, Judge Pratt issued a preliminary injunction which, among other things, requires the BLM to determine land status on all mining claims and sites at the time of recordation.

On March 27, 1986, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released it's report entitled Public Lands - Interior Should Ensure Against Abuses from Hardrock Mining (GAO/RCED-86-48). The GAO report finds that the BLM is not determining land status of mining claims at the time of recordation with the BLM. The report specifically identified the States of California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming as not performing land status determinations on mining claims and sites at the time of recordation.

On March 25, 1977, OAD 76-11 change 3 was issued, clearly stating the Bureau's policy on screening mining claims and sites for land status. That directive has been incorporated into the Bureau Manual System at BLM Manual Section 3833.12E2, Release 3-68. Implementation of this policy is mandatory, not discretionary.

Effective immediately, all State Offices, and in Alaska, the District Offices, are to determine land status of all mining claims and sites presented for recordation prior to entering them into the automated data system.

The priority sequencing for the Mining Claim Recordation (MCR) program will be as follows:

1. Recordation of new mining claims and sites (includes land status determination).
2. Processing of annual filings.
3. Finish issuing "Locke" decisions on abandoned and void mining claims and sites.
4. Notices of transfer of interest, changes of address, etc.
5. Screen existing mining claims and sites of record for land status.

Do not screen previously recorded mining claims and sites until the "Locke" decisions are finished. There is no point in doing land status on a mining claim or site that is abandoned and void by operation of law.

Staffing and priorities will be shifted to permit each office to timely comply with this directive. Land status determination of mining claims and sites previously recorded and are still in good standing under FLPMA will be brought up-to-date as soon as possible.

Table I is attached which gives the number of active mining claims and sites in each State. It also shows the number of land status determinations performed by State as entered into the DSC computer versus the actual number done. It is apparent that much work is going unrecorded and is uncredited due to lack of diligence in many State Offices in data entry procedures.

By early August 1986, the DSC will have a mass action update program available for your use to retroactively enter code "669" (or any other code) into your data base. All States will use this program to get their previously completed land status information into the computer before the end of the fiscal year. All new mining claims and sites will be checked for land status and action code 669 entered. An adverse decision will be issued where the mining claims or sites are totally located on land that is closed to mineral entry.

The Washington Office (680) will monitor compliance with this directive via the ADP action code system (action code No. 669).



Robert F. Burford

1 Attachment

1 - Table I - Land Status Summary (1p.)

Table I - Land Status Determination Summary

<u>Active Mining Claims</u>		<u>Land Status from Computer 1/</u>	<u>Land Status from State Office 2/</u>	<u>Percent of Mining Claims checked</u>
AK	32,086	7,268	7,268	22.65
AZ	145,242	0	43,263	29.8
CA	96,868	2,753	3,358	3.5
CO	60,650	0	0	0
ES	4,311	0	4,311	100.0
ID	66,959	0	6,121	9.1
MT	63,942	0	63,942	100.0
NM	46,519	22,570	22,570	48.5
NV	225,909	0	100	0.1
OR	45,648	16,310	16,310	35.7
UT	84,735	23,471	23,471	27.7
WY	68,404	0	1,200	1.8
Bur	941,273	72,372	240,387	25.5

Active mining claims = sum of new mining claims and sites recorded + all annual filings received for calendar year 1985.

1/ Cumulative Computer count (1/1/1976 to 1/1/1986) of Action Code 669 - Land status checked - does not apply to AK.

2/ Taken from State Office log books and similar records.



United States Department of the Interior

3809 (680)
3823BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 30, 1986

EMS Transmission - 10/31/86
Instruction Memorandum No. 87-84
Expires 9/30/87

To: All State Director's

From: Director

Subject: Land Status Determination and Bonding Task Force Implementation

As a result of the General Accounting Office (GAO) study and subsequent report (GAO/RCED-86-48, March 1986) and the Resolution of the National Public Land Advisory Council involving land status determination and bonding of operations conducted under the Mining Law of 1872, it has become apparent that possible inconsistencies exist in the methods employed in the land status determination processes. Also, the bonding policy needs to be reviewed to determine if the current policy is achieving the desired results and to determine if changes should be made. A recommendation from the recently completed work of the Bonding Task Force will be one of several inputs to this review.

The development of land status determination standards and a review of the current bonding policy will be accomplished under the direction of a State Director's Steering Committee. The Committee will be composed of four State Directors who will be responsible for and will guide the task force effort within the frame work of the enclosed implementation plan (enclosure 1). The State Directors selected for the Steering Committee are as follows:

Steering CommitteeEdward Spang
Roland Robison
Neil Morck
Michael PenfoldNevada State Director (Chairman)
Utah State Director
Colorado State Director
Alaska State Director

John Latz, Assistant Director, Energy and Mineral Resources and Dan Sokoloski, Deputy Assistant Director, Solid Leasable Minerals will serve as ex officio members of the Steering Committee. The U.S. Forest Service will be invited to participate as an ex officio member of the Steering Committee.

Concurrent with the formation of the State Directors Steering Committee, two work groups will be formed to support the land status determination and bonding efforts. The following personnel are requested to participate:

Land Status Determination Work Group

Roger Haskins
 Tom Woodward
 Joanne Neilsen
 Tom Golden
 Rose Fairbanks
 Cindy MacCauley

W.O. 680 (Work Group Leader)
 Boise D.O. 554-9703
 Oregon S.O. 429-6243
 New Mexico S.O. 476-6206
 California S.O. 480-4855
 Denver Service Center 776-6631

Bonding Work Group

Ray Brady
 Dave Williams
 Tom Lahti
 Vern Stephens
 Bill Jonas
 Richard Deery

Arizona S.O. (Work Group Leader)
 Butte D.O.
 Wyoming S.O.
 California Desert District Office
 New Mexico S.O.
 W.O. 680

Each office will fund their efforts from their current 4132 subactivity cost target allocated for FY 1987.

Please refer any questions on the content or implementation of this memorandum to Dan Sokoloski, WO 500 (FTS 343-4437).



Robert F. Burford

1 Attachment

- 1 - Land Status Determination and Bonding Task Force Implementation Plan (3pp.)

Land Status Determination and Bonding Task Force
Implementation Plan

INTRODUCTION.

The efforts of the land status determination and bonding task force will begin on or before November 19, 1986, and culminate with a final report by March 19, 1987. This effort will be accomplished under the guidance of the State Directors' Steering Committee. To ensure the timely completion of this effort a progress report to the Directorate will be completed by February 6, 1987.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

Step One: A. A memorandum requesting the participation of the selected State Directors to serve on the Steering Committee and technical personnel to serve on the task force work groups will be ready for the Director's signature by October 24, 1986. The recommended State Directors are:

Edward Spang	Nevada State Director (Chairman)
Roland Rotison	Utah State Director
Neil Morck	Colorado State Director
Michael Fenfold	Alaska State Director

B. Concurrent with the creation of the State Directors' Steering Committee, a work group of technical personnel to support the bonding investigation of the task force will be created by memorandum requesting the participation of the following personnel:

Ray Prady	Arizona State Office (Work Group Leader)
Tom Lahti	Wyoming State Office
Dave Williams	Butte District Office
Vern Stephens	California Desert District Office
Bill Jonas	New Mexico State Office
Rick Deery	WO-680

C. As in the case of the bonding task force, a work group of technical personnel will be established to address the land status determination investigation of the task force. The work group participants requested by the memorandum are:

Roger Haskins	WO-680 (Work Group Leader)
Tom Woodard	Boise District Office
Joanne Neilsen	Oregon State Office
Tom Golden	New Mexico State Office
Rose Fairbanks	California State Office
Cindy MacCauley	Denver Service Center

Step Two: A. The State Directors Steering Committee and the work groups will meet no later than November 19, 1986, for an initial review of the tasks assigned to them. Individual assignments to personnel on the technical work groups will be made at this meeting. The Steering Committee will be expected to take an active role in directing the work groups and to coordinate the issues during the pendency of the task force.

B. The second meeting of the Steering Committee and the work groups will be scheduled for early December to report on the results of the individual assignments, to prepare a summary of the individual reports, and to prepare a draft report which will be circulated among the individual members of the technical work group and the State Directors' Steering Committee.

C. A draft final report will be prepared based on the comments made by the individual members of technical work groups and the State Directors' Steering Committee will guide the preparation of the final report and its recommendations. The draft final report will be delivered to the Directorate no later than February 19, 1987.

D. A final report will be completed and presented to the Directorate not later than March 19, 1987.

Step Three: Headquarters Office will respond in writing to the results of the task force no later than April 10, 1987. Responses to any task force recommendations for actions requiring a program or regulatory change must be accompanied by an analysis of anticipated costs and an implementation schedule. The Task Force Final Report and the Headquarters response will be given to the Director no later than April 17, 1987.

Step Four: The Task Force report and any additional materials requested by the Director will be transmitted to Congress by May 1, 1987.

TASK FORCE CHARTER.

The task force will carefully evaluate issues related to two areas of the Mining Law Administration program: 1) the processing of land status determinations made as a part of mining claim recordation program, and 2) the use of bonding in preventing noncompliance by operators subject to the surface management regulations. No other areas of this subactivity are to be evaluated by this task force. Cost recovery questions outside this subject matter shall not be covered by this task force. The enumerated issues below within each subject must be evaluated in detail by the task force.

Land Status Determination: The Task Force must:

1. Evaluate the benefits/costs of performing land status determinations during initial steps of recording newly filed mining claims vs. using geographic searches of the MCR data base to compare locations to withdrawn areas vs. making no such checks unless and until a notice or plan of operations under the BLM or FS surface management regulations is received by the appropriate office.
2. If State Office-performed land status determinations are recommended, suggest the most efficient means for processing MCR files to include this step, and the proper skills mix needed for efficient performance.
3. If field office-performed land status determinations are recommended, suggest the most efficient means to achieve accurate results and insure that significant disturbance does not occur on withdrawn public lands.
4. Recommend the appropriate form of the determination and the manner in which it is to be stored and retrieved for BLM purposes.

Bonding to Prevent Noncompliance: The Task Force must:

1. Evaluate the degree to which instances of serious noncompliance resulting in unnecessary or undue degradation, or failure to perform required reclamation, is actually occurring in the field.
2. Construct a current picture of the financial structure of mining industry and relate this to the the industry's ability to obtain bonding in the financial marketplace.
3. Report on the methods available to mining claimants in constructing legal defenses that serve to limit the effects of bond default and/or liability for damages to public lands resulting from unnecessary or undue degradation.
4. Evaluate the costs/benefits of the current noncompliance and bonding system in terms of its ability to effectively deal with serious noncompliance that results in unnecessary or undue degradation or failure to perform required reclamation in a speedy fashion.
5. Explore any and all alternative approaches to the existing system (such as establishment of a reclamation fund for all mining claimants or those unable to secure bonds from traditional sources), being careful to estimate the effects of alternative proposals upon the ability of the industry to competitively operate on the public lands.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

August 23, 1986

RECORDATION OF MINING CLAIMS

Resolution of the National Public Lands Advisory Council

WHEREAS: The General Accounting Office recently has criticized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for recording mining claims located in withdrawn areas; and

WHEREAS: Such criticism misperceives the purposes of mining claim recordation in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act; and

WHEREAS: Legitimate disagreement as to withdrawal status may exist in certain instances; and

WHEREAS: Acceptance of material for recordation is nonjudgmental, and does not constitute BLM acknowledgment of claim validity; and

WHEREAS: An otherwise invalid claim is not made valid by recordation, and may not, therefore, encumber public land; and

WHEREAS: Failure to accept a valid claim for recordation can adversely affect the rights of claim locators; and

WHEREAS: Routine screening of mining claims represents an undue expense to BLM.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Public Lands Advisory Council urges BLM to strenuously resist GAO and Congressional pressures to screen mining claims prior to their acceptance for recording.

Appendix II

State Office Survey On Information Pertaining to Mining Claim Recordation and Land Status Determination

1. Flow chart for land status determinations, taken from the FY 1986 ATPR for Mining Claim Recordation.

State	Public Room	Accounts	MCR Staff	Dockets
AK	1. Land Status	2. Serial #	3. ADP	4. Filed
AZ	1. Land Status	2. Serial #	3. Land Status 4. ADP	5. Filed
CA		1. Serial #	2. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed
CO		1. Serial #	2. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed
ES			2. Land Status 3. ADP	1. Serial # 4. Filed
ID		2. Serial #	1. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed
MT		1. Serial #	3. Land Status 4. ADP	2. Routed
NM		1. Serial #	2. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed
NV		1. Serial # 3. Routing	2. Land Status 4. ADP	5. Filed
OR			1. Serial # 2. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed
UT			1. Serial # 2. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed
WY		1. Serial #	2. Land Status 3. ADP	4. Filed

Appendix III

Automated Methods than can be Developed in One to Two Years

1. Memorandum of DSD-Operations, Arizona to Director (680) of October 28, 1986 "Enhancements to Mining Claim Recordation Reports."
2. Denver Service Center analysis of DSD-Operations, Arizona request.
3. Denver Service Center analysis of computer reprogramming options than can assist the State Offices in land status determinations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE

3833 (943)
0639W

Memorandum

OCT 28 1986

To: Director (680), Room Number 3538
From: Deputy State Director, Operations, Arizona
Subject: Enhancements to Mining Claim Recordation Reports

In July and August 1986, Arizona Staff from the Divisions of Operations, Mineral Resources, and Lands and Renewable Resources met to discuss reports available from the Mining Claim Recordation System. It was the consensus of the group that current Mining Claim reports could be enhanced to greatly improve their utility to the field and in our service to the public.

We asked for recommendations from each of our District Offices, as well as from California, Nevada, and Utah. Responses were generally favorable and supportive.

The enclosure provides examples of the types of reports currently available and describes the enhancements to each report we suggest. We request all reports be real time; that is, current to what is in the Mining Claim System and not based on the last microfiche. Also, the reports need to be available for printing in a more timely manner. The delays from the time we request the report to the time when we can print it out are often many hours or, in some cases, an entire day.

We would appreciate your reviewing our proposals for enhancement to the Mining Claim Recordation Reporting System. Please notify us of your acceptance or rejection of the proposals.



Enclosure
Encl. 1 - Mining Claim Report Enhancements

cc: Deputy State Director, Mineral Resources, Arizona SO
Paul Bundy (D-224)
Steve Barrell (D-153)
Heidi Porter, ALMRS Coordinator's Chairperson, California SO



610

MINING CLAIM REPORT ENHANCEMENTS

1. NAME AND ADDRESS REPORT

A. CURRENTLY:

LISTS ALL CLAIMANTS ALPHABETICALLY ALONG WITH ALL SERIAL NUMBER THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT CLAIMANT'S NAME.

DATA ELEMENT PRINTED: CLAIMANT NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, AND ZIP - PLUS ALL SERIAL NUMBER WITH IDENTICAL CLAIMANT INFORMATION.

REPORT SEQUENCE: ALPHABETICAL BY CLAIMANT.

THIS REPORT IS CURRENTLY PREPARED FROM MICROFICHE AND IS CURRENT ONLY TO THE LAST QUARTER.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

QUERY FOR JUST ONE CLAIMANT NAME, OR ANY ALPHA CHARACTER(s).

SELECT BY STATUS INDICATOR, i.e., ACTIVE OR INACTIVE.

REAL TIME REPORT.

2. MISSING SERIAL NUMBER INDEX

A. CURRENTLY:

LISTS SERIAL NUMBERS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ASSIGNED.

DATA ELEMENTS PRINTED: ALL SERIAL NUMBERS THAT ARE MISSING (OR UNASSIGNED) ON THE DATA BASE.

REPORTS IN SERIAL NUMBER SEQUENCE.

THIS IS A REAL TIME REPORT.

B. NO ENHANCEMENTS PROPOSED

3. SERIAL, GEO, CLAIM NAME, OR CLAIMANT INDEX REPORT

A. CURRENTLY:

THIS REPORT CAN BE REQUESTED IN SERIAL NUMBER, GEOGRAPHIC, CLAIM NAME, OR CLAIMANT ORDER (IN A FORMAT IDENTICAL TO THE MICROFICHE).

THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR A SINGLE DISTRICT OR COUNTY.

THIS REPORT IS CURRENTLY PREPARED FROM THE MICROFICHE AND IS CURRENT ONLY TO THE LAST QUARTER.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

QUERY BY RESOURCE AREA.

CAPABILITY TO REQUEST REPORT EXCLUDING CLOSED CLAIMS AND THOSE CLAIMS WITH A 669 CODE.

SELECT BY CASE TYPE AND STATUS INDICATORS.

REAL TIME REPORT.

4. ACTION CODE REPORT LISTING ALL CLAIMS

A. CURRENTLY:

LISTS ALL CLAIMS WITHIN THE STATE FOR ANY SPECIFIED ACTION CODE.

DATA ELEMENTS PRINTED: SERIAL NUMBER, CLAIM NAME, CASE TYPE, ACTION DATE. END OF REPORT LISTS TOTALS.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

QUERY BY DISTRICT, COUNTY, AND RESOURCE AREA.

QUERY BY SELECTED TOWNSHIPS/RANGES.

QUERY FOR A SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD.

QUERY BY MORE THAN ONE ACTION CODE.

QUERY BY A SPECIFIC CASE TYPE.

LIST CLAIM OWNERS NAME.

5. ACTION CODE TOTALS REPORT BY ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, DISTRICT OR COUNTY:

A. CURRENTLY:

PRINTS TOTALS FOR THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS WITH ANY SPECIFIED ACTION CODE.

USER CAN SPECIFY ONE COUNTY OR DISTRICT, OR REQUEST ALL COUNTIES AND/OR DISTRICTS.

DATA ELEMENTS PRINTED: DISTRICT OR COUNTY NAME AND TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS FILED WITHIN A SPECIFIED DATA PARAMETER.

THIS IS A REAL TIME REPORT.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

QUERY BY RESOURCE AREA.

ALLOW MULTIPLE ACTION CODE REQUESTS.

CHOOSE BY CLAIMANT NAME(s).
PRINT OUT REMARKS COLUMN.

INCLUDE ACTION CODE FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.

6. MISSING ASSESSMENT REPORT

A. CURRENTLY:

LISTS ALL CLAIMS MISSING ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FOR A USER SPECIFIED YEAR.

DATA ELEMENTS PRINTED: SERIAL NUMBER, CASE TYPE, CLAIM NAME/
NUMBER, LOCATION DATE, CLAIMANT NAME (UP TO FOUR), STREET ADDRESS,
CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE.

THIS IS A REAL TIME REPORT.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

QUERY BY DISTRICT, COUNTY, OR RESOURCE AREA.

QUERY BY TOWNSHIPS/RANGES.

7. MULTIPLE ACTION CODE TOTALS FOR ALL ADMINISTRATIVE STATES

A. CURRENTLY:

PRINTS TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR A SPECIFIED ACTION CODE. UP TO NINE ACTION CODES CAN BE SPECIFIED FOR ONE RUN.

TOTALS ARE PRINTED FOR A SPECIFIED STATE OR ALL STATES.

THIS IS A REAL TIME REPORT.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

DO NOT NEED THIS REPORT IF MULTIPLE ACTION CODE ENHANCEMENT IS MERGED WITH REPORT 5.

8. TOWNSHIP AND RANGE REPORT (LTT/990 CRUN)

A. CURRENTLY:

LISTS TOWNSHIP, RANGE, SECTION, AND SUBDIVISION (DOWN TO QUARTER SECTION), SERIAL NUMBER, CLAIM NAME, AND CASE TYPE.

THIS IS A REAL TIME REPORT.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

ADDITIONAL COLUMN SHOWING DATE LAST ASSESSMENT WORK FILED.

ADDITIONAL COLUMN SHOWING DATE OF LOCATION.

TO ENTER LOW TO HIGH SERIES OF TOWNSHIPS, RANGE, AND/OR SECTIONS.

SPECIFIC TIME FRAME.

REPORT TO PRINT OUT IMMEDIATELY OR WITHIN THE HOUR FASTER TURN-AROUND ON GETTING REPORT. USUALLY TAKES UP TO ONE FULL DAY (12-24 HOURS) NOW. THIS REPORT WOULD BE A VALUABLE ONE TO THE PUBLIC ROOM IF IT WAS AVAILABLE ON A TIMELY BASIS.

9. PRINTOUT OF MINING CLAIM SERIAL PAGE

A. CURRENTLY:

LISTS CASE TYPE, CLAIM NAME, CLAIMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS, TOWNSHIP/RANGE/SECTION/QUARTER SECTION, COUNTY, DISTRICT, AND ACTIONS.

THIS IS A REAL TIME REPORT.

B. POSSIBLE ENHANCEMENTS:

LIST ACTIONS IN DATE ORDER.

DEFINE ALL ACTION CODE MEANINGS.

HAVE ALL ACTION CODES PRINTED ON SERIAL PAGE WITHOUT HAVING TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL SCREEN.

REGARDING THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCEMENTS TO THE MINING CLAIMS REPORT
OPTIONS

=====

OPTION #1 - SERIAL NUMBER BY NAME AND ADDRESS

Listed Enhancements:

1. Query for just one claimant name, or any alpha character(s).

Analysis of the possibility to select by one claimant name, names, or alpha character(s) would be required before making this modification; however, this enhancement has already been considered and tentative specifications discussed.

2. Select by status indicator, i.e., active or inactive.

The option for selection by "active" or "inactive" can be incorporated into this report option, as long as we continue to extract all claims for the microfiche. If not, then only the active claims would be available.

3. Real time report.

The extract tapes are used to produce this report due to the number of hours required to extract the data for each state. If D-250 would allow the DPS-8 to be monopolized for the amount of time it takes to run this report real time, the report would not be generated from the extract. Extracts consume up to 2.5 hours of CPU (Central Processing Unit) time, depending upon the state and 1-13 hours of elapse machine time.

OPTION #2 - MISSING SERIAL NUMBER INDEX

No enhancements proposed; no response required.

OPTION #3 - SERIAL, GEOGRAPHIC, CLAIM NAME, OR CLAIMANT MINI INDEX

Listed Enhancements:

1. Query by Resource Area.

Query by Resource Area is possible and can be included as a selection parameter.

- * 2. Capability to request report excluding closed claims and those claims with a 669 code.

At this time it is not possible to exclude claims with an action code 669 from the report.

*See footnote on page Appendix III - 10

3. Select by case type and status indicators.

Selection by status "active" or "inactive" could be incorporated, as long as we continue to extract all claims for the microfiche. If not, then only the active claims would be available. Selection by case type is not feasible at this time.

4. Real time report.

The extract tapes are used to produce this report due to the number of hours required to extract the data for each state. If D-250 would allow the DPS-8 to be monopolized for the amount of time it takes to run this report real time, the report would not be generated from the extract. Extracts consume up to 2.5 hours of CPU (Central Processing Unit) time, depending upon the state and 1-13 hours of elapse machine time.

OPTION #4 - ACTION CODE REPORT LISTING ALL CLAIMS

Listed Enhancements:

- * 1. Query by District, County, and Resource Area.
- * 2. Query by selected townships/ranges.
- 3. Query for a specific time period.

Query for a specific time period is already available depending upon date parameter entered by the user.

4. Query by more than one action code.

More than one action code per run is not an efficient use of computer resources. If only a total number is required, Option #7 utilized fewer computer resources and runs more effectively.

5. Query by a specific case type.

Selection by case type is feasible and could be implemented.

6. List claim owners name.

Claimant name could be added. Does this mean the first claimant of record or all claimants of record.

*See footnote on page Appendix III - 10

OPTION #5 - ACTION CODE TOTALS REPORT BY ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, DISTRICT OR COUNTY

Listed Enhancements:

1. Query by Resource Area.

This selection criteria can be added to this report without too much difficulty.

2. Allow multiple action code requests.

Use of Option #7 allows up to nine action code requests for one state or for all states.

3. Choose by claimant name(s).

Selection by claimant name is not feasible due to inconsistencies in data entry.

4. Print out remarks column.

The remarks column does not effectively lend itself to being printed out. All the data in the system's "remarks" column would be printed, resulting in a tremendous volume of paper.

5. Include action code for hazardous materials.

Is this a request to establish a new action code? If so, what is its definition and how is it to be used?

OPTION #6 - MISSING ASSESSMENT REPORT

Listed Enhancements:

1. Query by District, County, or Resource Area.

This selection criteria can be added to this report without too much difficulty.

2. Query by townships/ranges.

The 990CRUN, which queries by townships/ranges, now shows the last assessment year.

OPTION #7 - MULTIPLE ACTION CODE TOTALS FOR ALL ADMINISTRATIVE STATES

Listed Enhancements:

1. Do not need this report if multiple action code enhancement is merged with Report #5.

An all state option is not feasible nor workable in Report #5.

OPTION #8 - TOWNSHIP AND RANGE REPORT (LTT/990CRUN)

Listed Enhancements:

1. Additional column showing date last assessment work filed.

The latest assessment column has been added to this report. It is being tested as 990TEST and will be available in production format soon.

2. Additional column showing date of location.

The date of location column has been added to this report. It is being tested as 990TEST and will be available in production format soon.

3. To enter low to high series of townships, range, and/or sections.

Within the current parameters of the 990CRUN, this is not possible. In the 990TEST format, those who have familiarity with construction of working files can enter a series of MTRs. Someone unfamiliar with the construction of working files is better off entering each township and range individually.

4. Specific time frame.

What does this specific time frame refer to? Date of location? Date filed? Date closed? A beginning and ending date parameter could be developed, but would have to be connected to one of the above.

Report to print out immediately or within the hour faster turn-around on getting report. Usually takes up to one full day (12-24 hours) now. This report would be a valuable one to the public room if it was available on a timely basis.

The "limits" cause the job to be held in "time class." An option has been added in 990TEST which will lower the limits if there are 10 selection parameters or less.

OPTION #9 - PRINTOUT OF MINING CLAIM SERIAL PAGE

Listed Enhancements:

1. List actions in date order.

Actions are presently listed in date order from the most recent to the oldest after first presenting action codes stored in the Land Status area (395, 403, 012, 480 or 481). This is available utilizing the DBACS screen LTMSRPTS.

2. Define all action code meanings.

The action code, as well as its title, is already displayed on the serial register page print out.

3. Have all action codes print on serial page without having to request additional screen.

All action codes that have been entered appear on the printout as requested. When trying to print directly from the on-line system to a slave printer, it is necessary to request additional screens due to the limited space. This is not necessary when the print is directed to the high-speed printer in the state office.

Print of serial register pages can also be directed to a Deck-Writer terminal which is logged on to the state's printer LID. This is accomplished by using the "P" function on the LTRPLT screen. The addition of the "X" function to print to an attached slave printer is in the initial planning stages.

* It would seem more feasible to develop a new program to provide a joint direction based on location and action code. A careful analysis would have to be made to determine which features and format would be compatible and provide the most useful information.

DATA PROCESSING OPTIONS REQUIRING UP TO TWO YEARS DEVELOPMENT

A. New Filings

1. If the LLD/STATUS data base is completed, MCERS data base could be changed to get geo information there rather than the currently used Geo Ref area of the current data base.

This would be a major effort in redesign of the MCERS system. It would require an unload/reload of the data base with down time running possibly upwards of a week.

At this time, status collection is not planned for Historical Index (H.I.) for withdrawal information.

2. The existing Geo Ref portion of the MCERS data base does not use the 8 characters allocated for the surface jurisdiction. This field could be used for a date of withdrawal. The record is tied to the section record, therefore this would require identifying all withdrawn lands by MTR and sections.

If that information is available from the LLD/STATUS files, it could be collected by the machine from those filed. If it is not, then the information would have to be collected manually. This would, in any circumstance, show only one withdrawal per section.

3. If all withdrawal information could be made available, either through LLD/STATUS or coding to the existing Geo Ref data base, the land status check on new claims could be performed by the computer as an edit at the time the serial number is entered to the data base.

If STATUS contains all current withdrawals, then it should be adequate to determine status on all new claims.

B. BACKLOG

1. If H.I. information can be made available in the MCERS data base, either through incorporating with the LLD/STATUS data base or by coding data into the Geo Ref, then programs can be written that will examine each claim for a withdrawal date prior to the claims location date. These claims will be listed out for further manual processing. All others will be coded with a 669 action code to signify the land status check.

It appears at this time that neither LLD/STATUS or coding the Geo Ref could be complete enough for totally accurate automated land status checking.

2. The Geo search program can be modified to identify all claims in areas specified which do not have 669 action action records recorded to the claim.

C. Outputs, Storage & Retrievals

Presently undertermined.